UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

July 20, 1964

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I am very appreciative of your constructive attitude during our discussion on Thursday. The cooperation which you indicated you are able and willing to extend to this Agency will greatly assist us in augmenting the beneficial effect abroad of the Warren Commission's Report.

You raised several questions about our cooperation with you to which I, in turn, am happy to give you assurance as follows:

First, the set of guidance materials (to enable our Television Service to go ahead on realistic planning of our proposed documentary) will be seen by only three individuals, all of them senior officers of this Agency cleared through TOP SECRET: namely, the Director of our Television Service, his Production Chief, and Policy Officer.

There is no possibility whatsoever of any indiscretion on the part of these three officers. No other officers of this Agency will be given access to the guidance except on a "need to know" basis and only with your concurrence.

Second, to assure the absolute fidelity of our film and tape to the Commission's Report, we will screen all footage for you or your representative and correct or eliminate according to your advice.

Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D.C.

Third, I will make this film and tape footage available without cost to the Commission so that you may offer it to the commercial networks for their adaptation and use domestically.

I am sure that this footage will only partially satisfy network demands. They are never willing to be restricted to Government hand-outs. Hence, though I can understand your reservations, I think you should accept the advisability of making yourself and your aides available to the networks for additional interviews.

I hope also that the Chief Justice will find it possible to alter his position on the question of holding a press conference. The pressure upon him to do so will be tremendous. In my judgment, the benefits of a press conference would also be tremendous, since to refuse to meet the press will lend support to allegations that the truth has been shoved under the rug and is being kept there. So far as this Agency's responsibility is concerned, a wide-open press conference would immensely strengthen the prospect of gaining a respectful reception of the Report abroad.

Sincerely,

Carl T. Rowan

Carl T. Rowan
Director